

PROCEEDINGS
of
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

FIRST ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH SESSION.

Friday, the 17th April 1936/5th Medam 1111.

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at 11 of the clock, the President presiding.

NEW MEMBER SWORN IN.

Mr. K. George took the oath of office and signed the rolls.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PRESIDENT: We will now continue the supplementary questions on question No. 231, regarding the Kerala University left over yesterday.

Establishment of a Kerala University.

231. * **MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was made to the Dewan by means of a deputation regarding the establishment of a Kerala University;

(b) the reply given by the Dewan in the matter; and

(c) whether they have considered the question?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government have recently informed the deputationists that conditions are not favourable for this Government taking the initiative in the matter, and that it will be advantageous if the Kerala University Committee first ascertains the views of the Madras and Cochin Governments who are also interested in the question.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Are the Government aware that they have accepted a resolution regarding the necessity of a University for Travancore, about 10 years ago?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Are the Government aware that a Committee was appointed in pursuance thereof, the Committee did its work and that it submitted a report to Government?

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MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : A point of order, Sir, whether a member is right to put a question in the form of an answer and demand a reply from the official member.

PRESIDENT : Thank you, Mr. Nair.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : Yes, Sir.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Has the Government passed final orders on that report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : No, Sir.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Will the Government member be pleased to say how many years it is since the report was submitted?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : The report was submitted in 1925.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum Urban) : May I know the total expenditure on that Committee?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : I claim notice.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Was there not a Committee appointed for the same purpose some years earlier than that Committee was appointed?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : Yes, Sir.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Has Government passed final orders on that report?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : That Committee submitted only an interim report in which they raised some questions as to the lines on which they should proceed. They did not submit a final report; and before doing so, they wanted the opinion of Government on certain points. Government replied that the Sadler Committee's report was then being considered by the Madras University and that they would wait and see what modifications that University would adopt, before Government took any further action.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : After the submission of the Sadler Committee's report and the report of the Travancore University Committee, has the Government considered the question and tried to pass final orders?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government) : I said, Sir, that the report was submitted in 1925. From the records, I see that no further action was taken.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Is the Government aware that the policy of the Madras University is to encourage residential University and exclude mofussil Colleges.

PRESIDENT : How does that point arise out of this question?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (Trivandrum-Urban) : Is the Government aware that, according to the rules proposed at that time, mofussil Colleges were in a position of inferiority and inconvenience?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Has the Travancore Government any objection to write to the Cochin Government asking them to give facilities when the Committee visit Cochin?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): May I know whether there is any prohibition by Law or Treaty or political practice which prevents the Travancore Government from opening negotiations with the Cochin Government on this question?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I never said so.

PRESIDENT: That is left to the convenience of the Government, and in certain cases they directly negotiate.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I wish to know whether there is anything which prohibits from negotiating?

PRESIDENT: Government member has said that.

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Does the Government know that a non-official negotiation with the Cochin Government and the British Government will not have any effect unless the Travancore Government is a party?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to say what exactly are the unfavourable conditions for the Travancore Government to take the initiative in this matter?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): During these times of financial distress, it is not likely that the Madras Government or the Cochin Government will be willing to embark upon a scheme involving heavy outlay. It is not fair on the part of this Government to approach the Madras Government or the Cochin Government at this juncture with a request to organise a Kerala University.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): If the Government consider that this is not a favourable opportunity for the Travancore Government to approach the Cochin Government or the Madras Government owing to the economic difficulty, is it right on Government's part to tell the non-official Committee to approach those Governments?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They may make an attempt; that is all.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I take it that, when the Travancore Government consider that the attempt is not likely to succeed, the Committee would succeed?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Committee that waited on the Dewan of Travancore could as well wait on the Minister for Education in Madras and on the Dewan of Cochin and press for a favourable consideration of their request.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Is the Travancore Government now in a position to give at least one or two encouragements to enable the Committee to go to the Cochin Government or the Madras Government on this matter?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have advised the Committee to approach the Madras Government and the Cochin Government. I do not know what kind of encouragement is required.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I take it that, when conditions improve, the Travancore Government will take up the question for consideration?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already given the answer and I cannot say more at present.

MR. K. C. ABRAHAM (*Kottayam II*): Do the Government consider that a Kerala University is desirable?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have not come to a conclusion whether a Kerala University is desirable or not. They will wait and see what the Committee are going to do.

MR. K. C. ABRAHAM (*Kottayam II*): Does the Government feel the necessity for establishing a University for Kerala or a University for Travancore alone at this stage?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is desirable to have a University.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Government have finally given up the recommendation of the Travancore University Committee to establish a Travancore University leaving the doors open for Malabar and Cochin to come in?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have not passed any orders on the report of the Committee.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): If the Government have not come to a conclusion with regard to that recommendation, may I know how the Government considered the question of establishing a Kerala University as proposed by the present Committee?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The present Committee waited on the Dewan and pressed for the starting of a Kerala University and before that question could be considered and disposed of, the Government thought that it would be necessary for the Committee to approach the Madras Government and the Cochin Government and ascertain their views. That is all I can say at this stage.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): So may I know from the member whether Government can come to a conclusion regarding the specific recommendations made by the Travancore University Committee regarding the establishment of a Travancore University only after knowing the views of British Government and the Cochin Government about the establishment of a Kerala University?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Public opinion seems to be in favour of a Kerala University, and if there is any possibility of a Kerala University being established, I think it is better to wait for that opportunity than to rush to the establishment of a University for Travancore alone.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Government are aware of the very learned discussion regarding the establishment of a Kerala University and the arguments against it advanced in the report of the Travancore University Committee and how they came to the conclusion of forming a Travancore University leaving the doors wide open for Cochin and Malabar to come in if they liked?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, but the Committee's report is not unanimous. There was a difference of opinion among the members. I think one member added a dissenting minute in which he strongly advocated the establishment of a Kerala University in preference to a Travancore University. Further, as far as one could judge from what is said in newspapers and on platforms, public opinion seems to be more in favour of a Kerala University than a Travancore University.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Kerala University cannot be established in Travancore?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion again. So far as the replies of the Government member go, the conclusion is that Government have not come to any definite conclusion as to whether a University, if established, should be either a Travancore University or a Kerala University. That question does not seem to have been considered in all its aspects. So where is the purpose of further interpellating on that point?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member how the Government came to the conclusion that the non-official Committee's approaching the Cochin and Madras Governments will be more advantageous than the Travancore Government approaching those Governments?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Parameswara Aiyar has already asked the question and I have answered it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The reasons for coming to the conclusion that the non-official approach will be more advantageous have not been given.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Committee themselves have drawn up a programme according to which they propose to approach the Madras Government and the Cochin Government as they approached the Travancore Government. As that is in the Committee's programme, Government thought it better to leave it to the Committee to approach those Governments.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is it due to the incapacity of the Government to draw up a better programme that they thought that the non-official Committee may be asked to work up their own programme?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government did not consider the question of drawing up a programme. The Committee, before they waited on the Dewan of Travancore, drew up a programme. According to that programme, they were to approach the Travancore Government as well as the Madras and the Cochin Governments. Accordingly they waited upon the Dewan of Travancore and Government thought that it would be advantageous for them to approach the Madras and Cochin Governments also.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member the reasons for the delay in passing any order on the report of the Committee which was submitted about 11 years back?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government did not take up the question. That is all I can say at present.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether there is any reason for not taking up the question till now?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Financial and other considerations probably.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Does the consideration of the report or the passing of any order on the report entail any financial question?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Certainly. If an order is passed to start a University, funds must be provided to carry out the order.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have the Government come to the conclusion that the order that is to be passed will necessarily result in any expenditure?

PRESIDENT: Do you prefer an order being passed and kept in the record room?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Before passing any order, I wanted to know how the Government have come to the conclusion that the order if passed will entail further financial liability on the part of the Government.

Registry of cardamom lands.

252. ***MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR** (*Tiruvalla II*): Will the Government be pleased to state: